

Earth First! Action Update

Issue 59 June 1999

"In revolution there are two types of people: Those who make it and those who profit from it" Napoleon

NINE IN ONE NIGHT!

A major genetics hit at the start of the month saw up to nine test sites destroyed or partially destroyed in one night. The exact information is not totally clear due to the security risks of reporting such actions, but it is possible that the action has set back Britain's oilseed rape testing program by a year.

The subsequent press release attributed the action to 'Ambridge Against Genetics', following the crop-trashing storyline on the radio soap, which led the Daily Telegraph to call for a ban on the Archers, claiming it had a more corrupting effect than many violent films!

Five of the sites were in Cambridgeshire, three in Worcestershire and one in Essex.

★ CPB Twyford has become the first testing company to pull out of GE tests due to direct action. They complained that not only were all their GE tests being disrupted, but protesters had also been damaging their non-GE tests by mistake! Contact the GEN office on 0181 374 9516 to report test site actions or for an up to date list of sites.

CROP SQUAT

Thursday 27th saw an attempt made to establish a 'crop squat', in opposition to genetic engineering. It was inspired by a similar squat which took place in Norfolk last year and was planned to provide a welcome to the farmers of the ICC (see article next page).

Unfortunately, within hours of squatting the field, the police showed up, complete with dogs and a helicopter. The top cop stated that we were suspected of having caused damage to the crop (which had clearly been trashed weeks before our arrival) and gave us a time limit to leave by or be arrested. And our reinforcements were hours away. While we wished to stand up for our lawful right to squat the field, both on the land and in court if necessary, the decision made by the ten people in occupation was to leave because having a place to welcome the visiting Indian farmers was our priority.

So, in the ensuing 36 hours we had to create and enact Plan B. This involved much travelling, surveillance both suspected and obvious, including an undercover policewoman sidling up to an activist in our motorway services meeting

The EF! AU is written by activists as a networking tool for activists. A different collective takes on its editorship for a year at a time, in line with EF!'s non-hierarchical principles - (we would love to hear from anyone interested in taking it on in September)....If you have done an action, set up a new group, or want to tell people about a campaign, then send us an article (maximum 150 words). It doesn't matter if it seems small to you; stories of 3 people sitting on a digger are sometimes the most inspiring especially to people who aren't part of a large group. The feature pages are also available for longer articles which will provide useful information for activists in the UK. For contact details see back page.

The Monthly Round up of Ecological, and other, Direct Action from around Britain.

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants.



Indian farmers at the crop squat... global solidarity realised in sunny Essex

point to enquire subtly "what's happening with this GMO thing then?" and then attempting to hitch a ride in two of the vans (photos of her will be on-line soon); and reconnaissance to discover an alternative site.

By sun-rise on Saturday a Pioneer Seeds ex-test-site at Farnham Hall Farm in Essex had been occupied. When the police caught up, they were confronted with a myriad of dwellings, a garden, an occupied tripod and mono-pole, and various lock-ons. This time no-one was going anywhere!

Satisfying as that was, for most people, the best moment was when the Indian farmers came marching over the hill, singing and carrying banners. We shared food, sang songs, and agreed that all across the globe we are fighting the same fight, and growing stronger every day. For the farmers it was one of the highlights of their visit. We held the land until Sunday evening. Huge thanks to everyone involved, especially those who helped us out in Oxford at the last minute.

It's gonna be a long hot summer for the genetics lobby....

Don't miss out on the national Smash Genetic Engineering Action at 12 noon on the 31st July. For more details 07808 191 858 or smashgenetics@yahoo.com For a list of test sites, or information on genetic action groups in your area, contact GEN (see contacts list, p6.) Also, while we're on big summer actions, keep an ear to the ground for news of the 'Big Day Out' against Tarmac on the 17th August...

ZENECA AGM

Biotech company, Zeneca, held its Annual General Meeting on 21st of last month, and became the target for a day of action.

The day started with a visit to AstraZeneca's (called that since a merger last year) head office in London. After a scuffle to get into the building, some of the ground floor was occupied and decorated with squashed tomatoes.

Eventually, after discovering that the head of Public Relations was in the middle of a book on risk assessment (that's us!), campaigners were escorted out by police. Bolt-croppers were needed to remove contamination suited tomato-masked people who were chained to the front entrance.

Later, at the AGM, share holding protesters were kept out unless they could produce I.D. This may not be legal but is something to be aware of for the future. One protester who had been refused admittance managed to disconnect the computer terminals. Another was arrested after d-locking himself in the foyer.

Meanwhile, inside the AGM, questions were asked about just what AstraZeneca are up to, particularly focussing on the impact biotechnology is having on 3rd world countries.

One woman in the audience successfully made it on to the stage to pull apart the chairman's microphone, denouncing biotech, AstraZeneca, and all planet profiteers in the process before being removed by security guards. Another woman handcuffed herself to the podium chair, d was removed.

News In Brief

♦ 6 advertising hoardings have been damaged in Leeds recently, 5 of which have been totally destroyed. Leeds Adbusters, claiming responsibility, say "Advertising is the mouthpiece of consumerism - kill it and consumerism goes hungry"

♦ The latest piece of market research conducted by Tesco's has been the throwing qualities of their various sorts of pies. Apparently demand for pies has gone up after the recent spate of pie attacks on top capitalists.

♦ The M11 Link Road in through East London is expected to open on the 7th June. Meet on George Green, Wanstead at 9.30am for an end of the road get-together, or from 7pm the night before for an all-night vigil.

♦ A political and theoretical pamphlet of discussion and analysis of the June 18th process is planned. Send articles and graphics to Reclaim the Streets after the event, putting J18 political publication in subject line or on envelope.

♦ Last month the EF!AU reported that members of the Green Party had pleaded with people not to pull up plants on an anti genetiX demo in Fife. We have now been informed that two members of the Green Party were arrested for pulling up plants on that day and had not asked people to refrain from damage. (Unfortunately we do not have the resources to check up on everything that we are told.)

♦ The 10th of June will see fascist candidates standing in the Euro elections. In the past fascists have been forced to run away from election counts with police escorts. Contact Anti Fascist Action for information on anti-fascist activity in your area. BM Box 1734, London, WC1N3XX

♦ There's a new group set up to oppose the GE trees, which mark the next frontier for the industrialisation of forestry. Only an e-mail contact so far - contact GE Free Forests on rodh7@gn.apc.org

♦ A planned fascist march, in Worcester, was cancelled due to militant local opposition. And so was one in Halifax. Oh, and the NF speaker in Oxford. Shame....

♦ RadIX is a European video archive which lends out activist videos for little more than the postage cost from Germany. Contact them for a catalogue - address on contacts list.

♦ On Wednesday May 19th, one man gained entrance to the army and navy recruitment centre in Preston while another blockaded the entrance. The action was in protest against the bombing of Yugoslavia. There was one arrest. 10 people gathered in support of the activists and protest of NATO bombardment. Military personnel then closed the office. One person was detained for a breach of the peace but the charges were dropped.

♦ A new camp in Liverpool has been set up to protest the construction of two blocks of luxury flats in wild park land. Camp mobile: 0403 176 279

♦ Feral Books is a new cost-price anarchist and radical ecological distribution service for activists. Catalogue available soon, c/o Leeds Earth First! feralbooks@mail.com

♦ Help is needed running an EF! stall at the Gene-free jamboree event on July 10th in London. If you can help out contact Manchester EF!

INTER CONTINENTAL CARAVAN

The Inter-continental Caravan of Indian activists arrived in Britain on the 27th May, for three days touring the south of England before heading back onto the continent. However, out of the 120 people who were due to come to this country, only 37 managed to get visas (including none of the Karnataka farmers)

After a Public Hearing (People vs. Corporations) an impromptu action took place. Since the Nuffield Institute had recently issued a report saying that GM food could have a useful place in world health etc, the whole meeting decamped from Friends House and to the Nuffield office in the West End, London, occupying the whole of a 4-lane carriageway into the bargain. While some of the Indian farmers and others occupied the office and had lengthy dialogue, others outside made noise and hung banners up. All in all this was a real taste of 'the united colours of resistance'. The Indians also visited the crop squat (see front page) and will now visit other parts of Europe before arriving in Cologne for the June 18th celebrations. icc99uk@hotmail.com

CRITICAL CLAMPDOWN

It seems that Norwich Critical Mass has just got a bit too critical. Now attracting 50+ cyclists, April's event had an excellent atmosphere with, as would be hoped at these spontaneous cycling happenings, cyclists taking control and defining the event as it happens.

The ride was marred by aggressive policing. Police handed out written warnings at the start of the ride. Within 10 minutes of setting off a cyclist near the front of the crowd pulled in to the pavement to wait for the others to catch up. He was immediately tackled from his bike, arrested for obstruction, sustaining injuries severe enough to require hospital attention.

Critical Mass will continue, meet 2pm St. Peter Mancroft Church, by the old Library car park, Norwich, Last Saturday of each month.

NEWBURY STILL UNDER ATTACK

Less than a year since the Newbury Bypass opened, the road lobby's claims that it would not result in infill development are exposed as the lies we always thought they were. West Berkshire Council has approved an application by Vodafone for an out-of-town development on 40 acres of greenfield land to the North of Newbury.

Local Voices, an active anti-bypass group, is opposing the plans. They commented: 'Vodafone threatened to pull out of Newbury (where they already have a major office) if they did not get the go-ahead. We have quite literally been blackmailed'.

The application will now go to the Government Office of the South East which will decide in two or three weeks whether to submit the scheme to a public enquiry or not.

Other developments also threaten the Berkshire countryside between the bypass and the town including warehouses, industrial depots and housing developments.

We have also received news that an extension of the bypass to link its northern end to Chieveley junction on the M4 is being considered. The EF!AU has been unable to get any more info on this but it will presumably threaten the 4 trees which were saved back in 1996 at the former Mary Hare camp.

For further details contact the Third Battle of Newbury, on 07000 785201. Possible Vodafone action in Newbury on June the 18th (with time to get to London for the Carnival) - meet Newbury Train Station 8am, or contact Reading Roadbusters.

JUNE 18 IS HERE!

Here's a list of open actions in the city of London on the global day of action on June 18th. Actions will also happen in about 40 other countries.

7 am - Critical mass cycle action - Meet West Smithfield, EC1

10 am - Picket of Reed Employment Agency, 87 Moorgate, EC2 (over 'New Deal' harassment of claimants). Further info call Haringey Solidarity Group 0181 374 5027.

10:30 am 'Animal abuse is as transnational as Capital' meet Farringdon tube to demonstrate against Smithfields meat market and other animal abusers.

11:00 am - Anti-McDonalds picket. Meet Liverpool Street Mc Donalds. Further info: London Greenpeace 0171 713 1269

12:00 noon Carnival against Capital - meet Liverpool Street Station. Consider dressing to blend in as office workers, cycle couriers, tourists. Bring a radio.

4:00 pm - Picket of Aroma, 135 Bishopsgate, (McDonald's bought the Aroma cafe chain earlier this year). Meet Bishopsgate entrance of Liverpool Street BR station. Further info London Greenpeace 0171 713 1269.

6:00pm - Anti Monarchy March. Meet Trafalgar Square. Contact M'AM; 01523 160145.

If you do an action on June 18th, in London or internationally, then don't forget to report it to the Action Update. Legal support is available from the Legal Defence and Monitoring group on the day - if you are nicked then call them on 0181 5337116

If all that wasn't enough, why not join the Eurobunk mass train jump to arrive in Cologne for the big anti G8 demo on the 19th. The plan is, to meet on the evening of the 18th, at 1900 SHARP in front of the International Ticket Office, London, to board the 1927 Eurostar service to Brussels, the next morning, meet up with activists from Brussels, Paris and beyond to travel en-masse onto Koln for the demonstration. The decision as to when to return will be decided by those present on the day. You will need to bring some money, at least, for food, but the choice of a passport is entirely up to you. Contact: eurobunk01@hotmail.com

CAREERS FAIR DISRUPTED

On Thursday 20th May a careers fair in Norwich was disrupted. Five people, concerned that vivesectors and torturers (of, amongst others, Hillgrove cats) were out in public trying to recruit young people for their corporate, profit driven abuse.

The Huntingdon stall (which cost them several hundred pounds) was occupied and their promotional literature replaced with leaflets explaining the company's work.

Job seekers were invited to take up a career in animal abuse or instead consider an alternative path in anarcho-agitation.

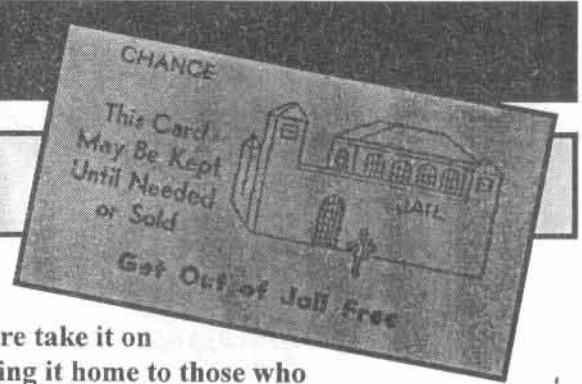
Signs were altered to read 'Huntingdon death sciences'. The stall was held for about three quarters of an hour before the police ejected people. There were no arrests.

The organisers said that, "this was a really simple action to put together, and a great chance to talk to people about to be shoved on the treadmill of 'earning a living'. The careers fair was packed with dodgy enterprises, and we would recommend checking out similar events in your area. Just keep an eye on the local press and career advice centres".

Job seekers were apparently very interested in talking to the activists and HLS were extremely pissed off about the action.

On Getting Nicked...

Some information on what will happen to you if you get arrested and how best to deal with it



Most of what follows will be old news to many people. However, it is vitally important that those who have not come across such advice before take it on board and act on it should they get arrested. It is also worth hammering it home to those who already know it. Lots of us have dropped ourselves in it by talking when we've known we shouldn't!

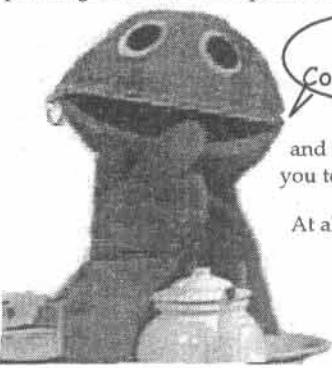
AT THE STATION

You will be taken to a police station. Once inside a desk sergeant will ask your name address and date of birth. You must give this information. You don't need to give your DoB if you're over 21. Not doing so might delay your release but it is worth remembering that it can make it harder for them to check your record, both at this point and on subsequent arrests. Your belongings will be taken from you. These will be listed on the custody record and you should be asked to sign that the list is correct. Do this immediately below the last item so that the cops can't add anything incriminating later. Do not sign if the list is incomplete, e.g. if your wallet is listed, do not sign unless its contents, such as cash cards, are also listed. People have lost stuff this way in the past. They may also try to get you to fill in a form detailing your appearance, education, political involvement etc. Do not fill it in.

You will be read your rights, these include the right to see a solicitor and to have someone informed of your arrest. You will then be placed in a cell until the police are ready to deal with you.

At some stage you may be charged with an offence. They will read the charge out to you and then ask if you would like to say anything. Answer 'no comment'. Once you have been charged they have the right to use force to take your fingerprints and a DNA sample either from your mouth or by plucking out hairs. At no point do they have the right to use force to take your photo so you can stop them by looking away / pulling your T-shirt over your face etc. They might take it as soon as you walk in to the station or at some later point when you are not expecting it however. They might well ask you for your prints and DNA before you are charged 'to speed things up'. If they already have these from a previous arrest then there is little point refusing. If they do not, then refuse, they have no right to use force to do this if you have not been charged. You might at some point be offered a caution, although this is not as bad as a conviction it is still an admission of guilt and will appear on your record. The fact that you are being offered one at all probably means that they are not up for taking you to court. Do not accept it.

At all times in the station you should remain as calm and polite as possible. Remember that you're on their territory.



SOLICITORS

You should be able to ring your solicitor very soon after the desk sergeant has finished with you. You should do so as soon as you have the chance. It is advisable to avoid using the duty solicitor as they are often in league with the cops and at the very least will offer bad advice. Use your own. On an action you should have had the number of a good solicitor provided. Refuse to be interviewed unless your solicitor is present.

INTERVIEWS

An interview is the police questioning you about the offences they wish to charge you with. This will normally take place in an interview room. An interview is only ever of benefit to the police. If they had enough evidence against you to convict you then they would not need to interview you so it stands to reason that anything you say can only work to their advantage.

NO COMMENT

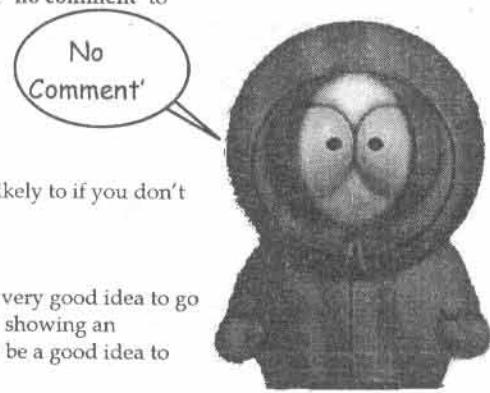
The Criminal Justice Act of 1994 did not remove the right to silence, it merely gave the courts the power to take your silence as evidence against you. This sounds bad but in reality your best bet is still to say 'no comment'. You could explain your silence to the court by saying that you were too confused and scared to think clearly, or that you believe that we should be entitled to the right to silence.

To all questions you should answer 'no comment'. They will ask you a lot of questions which do not sound dodgy, answer them all 'no comment'. If you answer some 'safe' questions and then clam up when they ask you a question about the crime it will look bad: 'What time did you arrive at the protest?' 'no comment'. 'Was the sun shining?' 'No comment.' 'Did you witness any damage being done?' 'No comment'.

They might try all sorts of tricks to get you to talk: They might threaten you with violence, or longer detention, they might offer to drop some charges if you admit to others, they might say that your friends have grassed on you. They might say that they already have enough evidence to get a conviction. Even if any of this is true you still have nothing to gain and a lot to lose by talking. You should answer 'no comment' to everything even if your solicitor advises you to talk - a good one won't.

It is not only for your sake that you should refrain from answering questions. Talking in an interview could drop someone else in it even if you do not deliberately grass on them. You could land someone else in trouble without even knowing you have done so, for example if your description of what happened, or what you could see from a certain point does not tie in with what they say, it could prove that one of you is lying.

The place to do your explaining is not in the cop shop but in court if it gets that far (and it's far less likely to if you don't talk). Whatever happens answer 'no comment' to all questions.



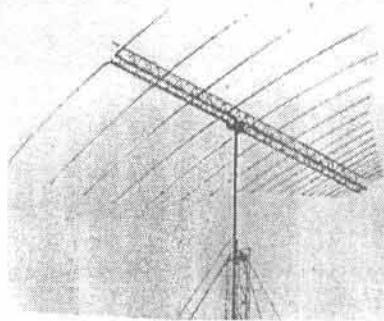
SUPPORT ROLES

If a friend has been arrested and you know what name they will have given to the police, then it is a very good idea to go to ask about them. The police might treat them better if they know that there are people on the outside showing an interest. You might also be able to take food, drink, magazines and cigarettes in for them. It might also be a good idea to contact their solicitor, just in case the police have not allowed them to do this.

Nobody Talks - Everybody Walks



Antenna Antics



Some notes on sabotaging state surveillance installations

Antennae are used by the various 'big brother' organisations, such as the American National Security Agency and Composite Signals Organisation (part of the UK foreign office), to listen in on private telephone conversations, pirate radio, resistance radio, e-mail, fax and other forms of communication.

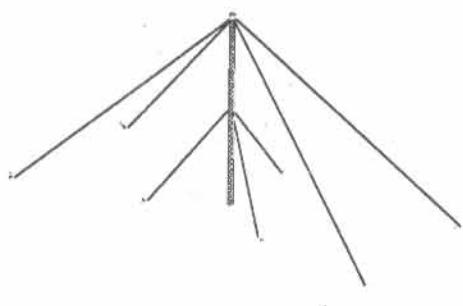
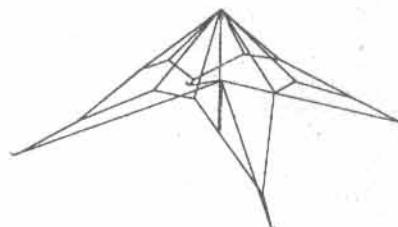
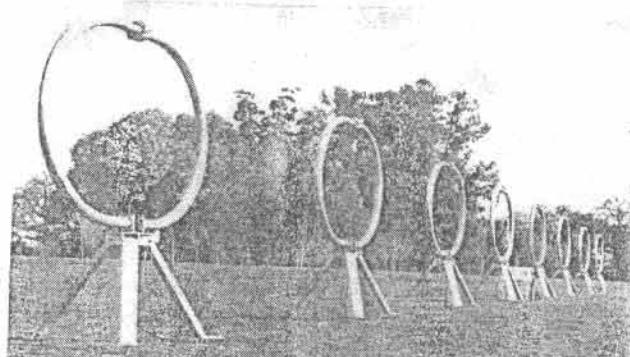
We don't know who they gather information on, how much of it they gather, who they pass it on to or how it will be used. But one thing that we can be sure of is that they are an integral part of the industrial military complex which will always work in the interests of the Western capitalist states and certainly not for those who oppose them!

We should all know by now not to give away any information over the 'phone, on email etc. that we wouldn't willingly tell to a cop, but it is possible to take a more active role in making the spies' job more difficult: We can fight back by sabotaging antennas in this country.

The equipment that you'll need to do this is an electricians' screwdriver, (for telling you if a current is running through the cable) and a pair of cable cutters or boltcutters.

Antennae can look very different depending on exactly what their role is. Some different types are shown in the pictures but there are many others. At the antenna there'll be a cable running down to the ground possibly to a junction box. This is the cable you need to cut. Run the electrician's screwdriver over it to make sure there is no current through it. When you know there is no current, cut it. If possible get the end wet as this makes it harder to repair. Try and do the cut so that it's hard for them to find.

There's lots of antenna sites in the UK, some are guarded, others aren't. A list of a few is provided but you'll probably notice others on trips to the countryside.



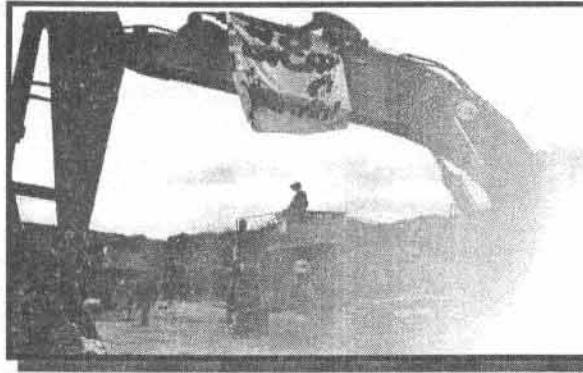
Locations of Antenna

The following antennae are used by the National Security Agency (NSA), M15, MI6, Composite Signals Organisation (CSO) and Government Communications Head Quarters (GCHQ). No army sites are listed as these facilities are sometimes used for search and rescue operations.

Anthorn (Lancashire)	GCHQ
Barford St. John	
Baldock (nr. Letchworth, Bedford)	CSO, NSA
Blackhill (near Cricklade, Wilts.)	NSA/GCHQ
Bude (Cornwall)	NSA involvement
Chicksands (nr Bedford)	NSA/RAF
Crigrin (Wales/England Border)	
Croughton (near Banbury)	
Culmhead (nr Churchstanton, Somerset)	CSO
Feltwell (Norfolk)	NSA
GCHQ (Cheltenham)	GCHQ
Hawkclaw (near Fife, Scotland)	CSO
High Wycombe	NSA
Irton Moor (nr Scarborough)	CSO
Kirknewton	NSA
Mormond Hill nr. Peterhead, Scotland)	NSA
Fylingdales nr Whitby) N. Yorks	NSA/RAF
Mildenhall (Cambs)	NSA
Lakenheath (Cambridgeshire)	
Menwith Hill (N. Yorks, Nr Harrogate)	NSA
Rugby (off M1)	GCHQ/NSA

Further reading:

The Puzzle Palace, James Bamford, Sidgewick+ Jackson, 1982
 The Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier, Duncan Campbell, Michael Joseph, 1984
 Secret Power, Nicky Hagar, Craig Pottion 1996



Blatant Incitement Project

"the Blatant Incitement project exists to empower people to organise themselves without hierarchy, for radical action towards social ecological change, by sharing skills, knowledge, and inspiration."

Hopefully, since we spent more time wording that than you might imagine was possible, it gives the general idea. But here's a bit more information that will help you get involved and make use of the Blatant Incitement Project (BLINC) (BIC? BLIP? does it matter?)

The idea was inspired by the EF! Roadshow which travelled the country back in '92 as part of the launch of EF! in Britain. Earlier this year there was a get-together at the EF! Winter Gathering to discuss current possibilities, and two main points became clear. One was that everyone felt some EF! style outreach was important, as it can prove difficult to get involved, especially nowadays as there are less protest camps. The other was that many activists couldn't really see how to fit the traditional-epic-van-journey roadshow into their lives or campaign schedules (despite one person's arguably tantalising vision of blatting round the country on Vespas dressed as nuns). So in the two meetings that have happened since (we're not having any more), people have invented a concept that aims to be both effective, and flexible. This is the way it works:

BLINC has a contact point, which is care of Manchester EF!, or <doinit@nematode.freeserve.co.uk>. You can get in touch and either *offer* something, or *request* something. Things on the offers list so far include NVDA (Non Violent Direct Action) workshops, ecological puppet shows and events for kids, a slideshow on agribusiness incorporating genetiX issues and sustainable alternatives, a portable cinema (in the planning stage currently), not to mention some political musicians. And in about a month, some people will be kicking off a "politics in schools" angle by taking up the invitation of teaching sixty sixth-formers about 'ecological alternatives to capitalism'!

The general idea is that whatever's being talked about, we keep the radical message clear; for example, someone asked to visit a local veggie-box group might put local growing in the context of challenging corporate control. It was also felt that no-one wants to waste time being "info-tainment" - our priority is information for action.

The BLINC structure enables most people to get involved at some level. You can register as offering a workshop or skill, and only do it once a year if that's all the time you have. You can take on BLINC as part of your own campaigning, using it to visit places or projects and build links with communities or groups. Or you can do something in the middle of the two. Some people have taken on admin tasks, but perpetuating the project is now up to everyone. If you want to be quite involved, then you can request to join the administrative email list that will field enquiries (people offering skills etc will not have their details circulated publicly, but will instead themselves be given the contact details for people who have asked for what they offer.) In the discussions had so far, it's been felt that this project could not only be positive for people wanting to find out more about radical politics and direct action, giving them a way into a network, but that it will be a good thing for Earth First! too. Many of us became involved through sitting round a site campfire, hearing new ideas in a relaxed atmosphere. If creating a similar atmosphere, without the trees and diggers, is possible, then next year there really *might* be new people organising actions, putting on the gathering, and giving others a chance to recover from burn out!

Leaflets to promote BLINC will be available soon, and copies of meeting minutes are also available. Contact us c/o Manchester EF!. Oh, and the nuns and purple smoke are still in the pipeline, if enough people are up for it...

EF! CONTACTS JUNE '99

ACTION GROUPS

Arun Valley EFI
c/o 1 York Road
Littlehampton
W. Sussex BN14 6EN
01903 721615
arunefi@radicalfluff.demon.co.uk

Bath EFI!
c/o PO Box 426, Bath
Somerset BA1 2ZD
01249 713742

Bristol EFI!
c/o Box 51
Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
0117 939 3093

Cambridge EFI!
Box E, 12 Mill Road
Cambridge CB1 2AD

Cardiff EFI!
c/o Green Group
Glamorgan Uni SU,
Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan CF37 1DL

Cheltenham EFI!
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Cheltenham
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hq@chelt-ef.freescerve.co.uk

Exeter Environ. Network
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Exeter EX4 4EW

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0116 270 9616

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Leeds LS7 3HB
0113 262 9365
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Liverpool L1 4HY

Manchester EFI!
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255 Wilmslow Road
Manchester M14 5LW
0161 226 6814
mancef@nemato.freescerve.co.uk

Mid-Somerset EFI!
PO Box 23, 5 High St.
Glastonbury, Somerset
BA6 9PU

Norfolk EFI!
The Greenhouse
42-46 Bethel Street
Norwich NR2 1NR

Nottingham EFI
c/o The Rainbow Ctr.
182 Mansfield Road
Nottingham NG1 3HW
0115 958 5666

Oldham EFI
PO Box 127
OLDHAM OL4 3FE

Oxford Community Action
Box E, 111 Magdalen Rd
OXFORD OX4 1RQ

Reclaim the Streets
PO Box 9656, London
N4 4JY 0171 281 4621
rts@gn.apc.org

Reclaim the Valleys
c/o Swansea
Environment Centre
Pier Street
Swansea SA1 1RY

Reading Roadbusters
R.I.S. Centre
35-39 London Street

Reading
Berkshire RG1 4PS
0118 954 6430
roadbusters@clara.net

Southampton EFI!
SUSU Pigeonholes
Southampton University
University Road
Southampton SO14
eco@soton.ac.uk

South Devon EFI!
Birdwood House
44 High Street, Totnes
Devon TQ9 5SQ

South Downs EFI!
PO Box 2971
Brighton BN2 2TT
savage@easynet.co.uk

Swansea People EFI!
c/o Green Action
Swansea Uni SU
Swansea, Wales

TAPP (Tyneside Action
for People & Planet)
PO Box 17A
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 1TA
tapp@newcastle54.freescerve.co.uk

Warwick EFI
c/o Green Society
Warwick Uni SU
Coventry CV4 7AL
suasad@csv.warwick.ac.uk

Wolves Eco Action
c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs
Wolves Uni SU
Wulfruna Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1LY

York EFI!
c/o York LEAF
PO Box 323, York

SUPPORT GROUPS

Anarchist Teapot
Action Kitchen, Box B
Public House Bookshop
21 Little Preston Street
Brighton BN1 2HQ

Blatant Incitement
Collective
(outreach & small group
support)
c/o Manc. EFI!

EFI Summer Gathering
c/o Leeds EFI!
gathering99@iname.com
(offers of site help to
Norfolk EFI!)

Spirit of Freedom
(Earth Lib. Prisoners)
c/o Leeds EFI!
earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com

PROPAGANDA

Aufheben
c/o PO Box 2536
Rottingdean
Brighton BN2 2TT

Corporate Watch
(see Oxford EFI!)
01865 791391
mail@corporatewatch.i-way.co.uk

Counter Information
c/o Transmission
28 Kings Street
Glasgow G1 5QP

Do or Die (periodical)
c/o South Downs EF!

EFI Action Update
c/o Leeds EFI!
actionupdate@gn.apc.org

Genetics Update
C/O GEN

Green Anarchist
BCM1715
London WC1N 3XX

Green Line
PO Box 5, Lostwithiel
Cornwall PL22 0YT
0870 733 4970

FINs - for a full list of
free information
networks & more, send
SAE to: London FIN
c/o 99 Torrinia Avenue
London NW5 2RX

Peace News
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DY

Radix-europe wide DA
video lending library
c/o Projektwerkstatt
Gostenhefer Hauptstr 50
D-90443 Nürnberg
Germany
+49 (0) 911 2875880

Radix@pathfindermail.com

Smash Hits
BM Box 5538
London WC1N 3XX

West Country Activist
c/o PO Box 478
Taunton TA2 7YR
wca@conk.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Advisory Service for
Squatters
2 Saint Pauls Road
London N1 2QN
0171 359 8814
advice@squat.freescerve.co.uk

ALF Supporters Group
BCM Box 1160
London WC1N 3XX
1003021616@compuserve.com

Anarchist Black Cross
(prisoner support)
c/o PO Box 446
Sheffield S1 1NY

Anarchist Communist
Federation
c/o 84b Whitechapel
High Street
London E1 7QX

Anarchist-Primitivist
Network
PO Box 252
Rickmansworth
Hertfordshire WD3 3AY

Anti-Fascist Action
BM Box 1734
London WC1N 3XX

Anti-Quarry Action
(AQUA)
Kimberly Mill Park
King's Steignton
TQ12 3NR
01626 363844

Campaign Legal Group
(self-training)
43 Swan Meadow Road
Poolstock
Wigan WN3 5BJ
01942 513792

Disabled Action Network
3 Crawley Road
Wood Green, London
N22 6AN 0181 8891361

DELTA - c/o Leaf

Earth Circus Network
CREATE Centre
Smeaton Road, Bristol
BS1 6XN 0117 9250505

EarthRights Law Centre
26 Field Lane,
Teddingdon, Middlesex,
TW11 9AW

earthsrights@gn.apc.org

Forest Action Network
(as for Norfolk EFI!)
01803 611953
fanuk@envirolink.org

Genetic Engineering
Network (GEN)
(as for RTS)
0181 374 9516
genetics@gn.apc.org

GenetiX Snowball
(open crop removal)
One World Centre
6 Mount Street
Manchester M2 5NS
0161 834 0295

genetixsnowball@onet.co.uk

Green Anarchist
Network
BCM 1715
LONDON WC1N 3XX

Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.
PO Box 2786
Brighton BN2 2AX
01273 622827
hsa@gn.apc.org

Friends of MOVE
PO Box 14129
London W12 8GR

Industrial Workers
of the World
75 Humberstone Gate
Leicester LE1 1WB

The Land is Ours
(see Oxford EFI!)
01865 722016
office@tio.demon.co.uk

Legal Defence &
Monitoring Group
BM Haven
London WC1N 3XX
0181 5337116

Making Waves
(boats / training)
PO Box 1377, Sheffield
S36 4BZ 01226 762359
pp3mo@aol.com

Cedar & Arthur's Woods
Meercat Protest Village
Nr. Oversley Lodge Fm
Altringham Road
Styal, Wilmslow
Cheshire. SK9 4LJ
07931 931850

An Talamh Glas
4 Ashgrove, Seacrest,
Knocknacarra, Eire
roberta@indigo.ie

London GreenPeace &
McLibel Support
Campaign
5 Caledonian Road
London N1 9DX
0171 713 1269
info@mcsplight.org

No Opencast
190 Shepherds Bush Rd
London W6 7NL
0171 603 1831

The Rational Trust,
(Wilts. greenfields)
c/o 21 Beaufile Close,
Swindon, SN5 8AQ
0788 0592370 /
0836 743581

Save the Hillgrove Cats
Box CB
111 Magdalen Road
Oxford OX4 1RQ
0121 632 6460

Schnews & Justice?
PO Box 2600, Brighton,
E. Sussex BN2 2DX
01273 685913

Subversive!
c/o Box E
111 Magdalen Road
Oxford
OX4 1RQ
subs@vermily.i-way.co.uk

Third Battle of Newbury
PO Box 5642
Newbury RG14 5WG
07000 785 201
thirdbattle@hotmail.com

Trident Ploughshares
2000 (anti-nuke direct
disarmament)
(see Norfolk EFI!)
01603 611953
reforest@gn.apc.org

URGENT (greenbelt
housing network)
Box HN, 111 Magdalen
Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ
01865 721366
info@urgent.org.uk

Kebele Community Ctr
14 Robertson Road
Eastville
Bristol BS5 6JY
0117 939 9469
kebele@mailexcite.com

PROTEST CAMPS

Ashton Court Quarry
c/o Bristol FoE
10-12 Picton Street
Montpelier
Bristol BS6 5QA
07970 423 834

Avon Ring Road Protest
Camp
c/o 84 Colston Street
Bristol BS1 5BB
0797 999 0389

Birmingham Northern
Relief Road Campaign
The Spinney
Turf Pits Lane
Near Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands B75 5T?

Cedar & Arthur's Woods
Meercat Protest Village
Nr. Oversley Lodge Fm
Altringham Road
Styal, Wilmslow
Cheshire. SK9 4LJ
07931 931850

A SEED Europe
PO Box 92066, 1090 AB
Amsterdam, Netherlands
+31-20 6682236
aseedeur@antenna.nl

Faslane Peace Camp
Shandon, Helensburgh
Dunbartonshire
Scotland G84 8HT
01436 820 901

Friends of Lyminge
Forest
c/o 3 Abbott Road
Folkstone, Kent CT20
1NG 01303 257046 /
265 737 / 0468 945595

Gorse Wood
07957 915 877

Park Nook Camp
Liverpool
0403176279

Sellafield Women's
Peace Camp
(bi-monthly) Box Z
(see Leeds EFI!)
0113 262 1534

AUTONOMOUS ZONES

56a Infoshop
56 Crampton Street
London SE17 3AE
Open 2-8pm Thurs & Fri

Autonomous Centre of
Edinburgh
17 West Montgomery
Place, Edinburgh EH7
5HA 0131 557 6242

A-Spire: autonomous
zone
(see Leeds EFI!)
a-spire@geocities.com

Citizen Smith
Old Community Centre
161 College Road
Kensal Green, London
NW10 3PH

07931 980534.
citizensmithuk@hotmail.com

Kebele Community Ctr
14 Robertson Road
Eastville
Bristol BS5 6JY
0117 939 9469
kebele@mailexcite.com

Green Action Israel
PO Box 4611, Tel-Aviv
Zip Code 61046 Israel
+972 (0) 3 516 2349

People's Global Action (against WTO and
neoliberalism)
+4122 344 4731
info@apg.org

Pobal An Dulra
242 Sunset Drive
Cartron Point, Sligo
Eire +353 71 44348

Poland EFI!
PO Box 40, 43-304
Bielsko-Biala 4 Poland
+48-33 183153
wapienia@pnrwi.most.org.pl

Rainbow Keepers
(Ukraine)
PO Box 322, Kiev
252187 Ukraine
rkc@ccil.glasnet.ru

Volunteers For Earth
Defence
189 San Antonio Ext
SFDM
1105 Quezon City,
Philippines

Action Groups are local EFI contacts. Some of them are active groups, some of them are aspiring towards this but need more people to get in touch. Some are just people who will know what is going on direct action wise in their area. The Propaganda section lists non-EFI publications which we think are worth reading. International Contacts are entry points into that country's own network of groups. Other Contacts are ones whose aims and principles we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups web addresses visit www.k2net.co.uk/ef/

New additions and alterations are shown in bold

GREEN FIELD HOUSING STUFF

URGENT!, the Urban Regeneration and Greenfield Network which campaigns against greenfield housing developments, is holding a one day conference and an action in Oxford in July.

The conference is to be held on the 10th with a view to bringing together various local anti-greenfield housing groups. Many of these groups are comprised of otherwise non-politically active local residents who are turning to Direct Action. The evening will see a party with local bands playing. Earth First!ers and those of a similar persuasion are wanted, and their attendance can be subsidised.

Sunday will see a Steering Group meeting at which EF! types are also welcome to push the radical agenda, before a day of Direct Action on the issue of urban regeneration and greenfield development, on Monday.

Contact URGENT see contacts list.

TARMAC AGM

On Monday 24th activists from Bestwood, Nottingham, and elsewhere descended on Tarmac's AGM in Birmingham to protest against Tarmac's proposed quarries in Bestwood Country Park, and other crimes against the planet. A good turnout meant that when the first protester made their point, and a ripple of applause ran across the hall, Tarmac's chairman, John Banham's face fell. Next followed a tirade of high volume questioning, whistle blowing, and attempted assaults on the stage. The following scrum saw about 15-20 protesters carried out. The initial chaos set the agenda with all the questions at the AGM about Bestwood or the environment. John Banham agreed to visit the village and is flying in by helicopter (another on of their environmental policies?) to face protesters demands. The saga continues!!! The No Tarmac Quarries At Bestwood Campaign would like to unanimously thank all the crews and individuals who came to join us on the day, ta muchly.

Campaign contact: 0115 958 5666.

DOIN' IT IN SHEFFIELD

Doin it in the North actions started happening last year, after the idea for them was formed at the Summer Gathering. The aim was to put on regular regional actions which would also increase the level of analysis and networking in the North of England.

The fourth of these actions took place in Sheffield, and, despite a disappointing turn out of around 35 people, was a very interesting day for all involved. After an evening of socialising and workshops about June 18th, Monday 17th saw the activists split into two groups. Following the format of a scavenger hunt, the intrepid activists visited some of the nastiest organisations peddling their social and environmental destruction in Sheffield. Group 1 shut down a BP filling station and were quickly outnumbered by 3 vans of cops. As that group withdrew, group 2 sprang into action and shut down the Shell station opposite. Both groups continued their hit and run tactics which saw visits to a cat torturer, Reed employment agency, Midland Bank, and, of course, McDonalds. The police response was unbelievable, with helicopter, cars, bikes, landrovers, horses and meat wagons galore. However the running nature of the action meant that the cops were always one step behind. Hitting a number of targets ensured that all dodgy companies were on edge that day. As a format the consensus was that it had potential and everyone involved had a fun day out.

The Next Doin' it in the North action will be in Newcastle in September. Watch this space

VENGEANCE BACKS OFF

Faslane Peace Camp in Scotland was home to two very successful actions against Trident nuclear submarines last month. First, three people managed to gain entrance to the depot where the war heads are stored before being loaded onto the Trident submarines. One of them climbed to the top of the crane used to unload the warheads and was almost immediately removed by police. All three were arrested for breaching local bylaws, two of whom were later released without charge. But the woman who made it up the crane was charged and is due to appear in court on July 5th.

Later in the month HMS Vengeance (the 4th Trident submarine) was due to arrive at the base, having been delayed for two months due to its communications equipment having been sabotaged! (see EF!AU issue 56). A camp was set up on the peninsula overlooking the entrance to the Loch which Vengeance was to enter. Large numbers of people were there to resist it, with floating obstacles, which may have had the capacity to damage it, to place in its way, and boats to sail out in to obstruct it.

Faced with this opposition the submarine was diverted to Coulport instead of Faslane. Some people managed to get there to protest its arrival and people swam to within 30 yards of it before being stopped by police.

Faslane Peace Camp: 01436 820901

VALLEE D'ASPE VICTORY

The last action weekend at the Vallee D'Aspe took place on the 22nd/23rd May. A week later the government announced that it would not be building the road through the Pyrenees which has faced 15 years of resistance, and will restore the rail link instead.

3000 people formed a human chain around the soon to be open bridge and lit a huge bonfire, keeping the road shut throughout the night. Actions have been helped recently by geological processes getting their own back, with rock falls on freshly laid tarmac keeping other parts of the road scheme closed.

The decision to abandon the project, which runs through the last remaining habitat of the European brown bear, came after spending £200 million on it, and was partly catalysed by the recent fire in the Mont Blanc tunnel which killed 45 people.

TESCOS ACTION

Over the last few months various supermarkets in Leeds have been leafleted informing customers about genetically modified food. During a visit to Tesco the 3 leafleteers were threatened by security and were physically prevented from distributing their leaflets. It was decided that if they were going to try and stop us leafleting then we should assert ourselves a bit and go back and do something a little more disruptive.

On Friday May 7th, 30+ participants - some new to direct action - gave out leaflets, hung banners and set up a "Toxic Waste Dump" within the store. Response from the public was positive and supportive: response from Tescos was once again aggressive, backed up by a large police presence.

Chaos ensued as one protester was bundled into the baby changing room by security. Some random shopper let rip into an eloquent rant about how no one should shop in supermarkets.

The action ended with the person in the baby changing room being arrested despite attempts to free him, three police vans and a car were on the scene and the protesters made a tactical retreat for a debriefing session. Contact Leeds EF!

Action Diary

June

5-6. OKasional Cafe, Manchester opens up for a weekend of June 18 build-up parties. Contact Manc. EF!

7. M11 Link Road expected to open - see News in Brief
9. June 18 Benefit. Earth Tribe, Maroon tribe, House of Rhythm, The Garage, Highbury

11. Anti-Car action in Leeds (rescheduled) meet TAFF's cafe at midday. contact Leeds EF!

12. RTS party in Newcastle Meet 1pm at Central Station or Monument. Contact - Newcastle.rts@iname.com, or tel 0709 1135047

12. Carnival and protest in the lead-up to June 18, Edinburgh, meet 12 noon, The Mound

12. Genetically Modified Cycle Ride (to a test site) Meet at the boating lake, Roundhay Park, Leeds 5pm
15. Cambridge Pre-J18 event meeting in central Cambridge June 15 Cambridge@hotmail.com

18. Actions in financial centres around the world. In the UK we're hitting the city of London. Contact RTS. 0171 281 4621 ...also Street Party in Glasgow meet Kelvinbridge or St. Enochs or Kinning Park Underground, contact ACE 0113 557 6242 lothian@burn.ucsd.edu

19. Movement Against the Monarchy event to coincide with royal wedding. Meet 5pm at Windsor Station. July

10. URGENT conference

10. Gene-free Jamboree 0181 374 9677. Help needed on EF! Stall contact Manchester EF!

12. URGENT action. See article this page.

17. National action against Tarmac.

31. National Smash Genetic Engineering Action 07808 191858 or smashgenetics@yahoo.com

31- Aug 2. Setting up Ecological Communities course at Stepping Stones Co-op, mid-Wales 0870 7332538 August

2-8. European Animal Rights gathering, Norway. noah@noahonline.org

18-23. EF! Summer Gathering, East Anglia. Contact Leeds EF! for workshops or Norwich EF! for offers of help on site

September

Fifth 'Doin' it in the north'. Newcastle, date tbc.

11. Norwich Reclaim The Streets party - 07931308091

Prisoners

This is by no means a comprehensive list. For a fuller list, more info on prisoner support, and contacts for other prisoner support groups please contact Earth Liberation Prisoners. See contact list. Or: www.geocities.com/RainForest/Jungle/1664 When writing to prisoners always put your name and address on the back of the envelope.

Doing time for demos against Hillgrove Farm, breeders of cats for vivisection:

Melanie Arnold (10 months for Violent Disorder)

Melanie Arnold DT4543, HMP Bullwood Hall, High Road, Hockley, Essex, SS54TE

Tom Monaghan BV6144 (12 months for Violent Disorder), Dave Lakeman BV6386 (9 months), Peter

Merson Davies (121/2 months), Paul Holliday BV6387 (12 months) and Tim Senior BV6384 (9 months).

All at HMP Bullingdon, P.O Box 50, Bister, Oxon, OX6 0PR

Sue Amoss DT4388 (15 months)

NMP Eastwood Park Wootton-Under-Edge, Gloucester, GL12 8DB

Anarchist prisoner Harold Thompson has been brutally assaulted, robbed and placed in segregation for his 'own safety' due to white supremacists working hand in hand with prison officials. Write (civilly) to: Warden Jack Morgan, Turney Centre Industrial Prison, Route 1, Only, Tennessee 37140-9709, USA, asking that Harold might get a transfer to further victimisation. You can write to Harold at the same address. Harold H. Thompson #93992.

RATIONAL TRUST

Massive housing developments are now being planned throughout rural Britain.

A group calling themselves the 'Rational Trust' have started a regular poster campaign regarding strategic housing development within Wiltshire on greenbelt land and are expecting to set up protest camps within the next six months.

Beaufort Homes has been granted permission to build twelve houses on surrounding greenbelt in Highworth (Wiltshire), despite massive local opposition. As a result a public right of way was closed and ancient protected hedgerows were flattened, breaking a two hundred year old act of parliament. Trees were also felled and wildlife eradicated. Development then increased from twelve houses to a further seven hundred and fifty, all being built on greenbelt land and moving steadily towards Swindon.

This will also create more industrial development. Swindon council have been quoted as saying "Swindon will become a city, no matter what the cost".

The Rational trust can be contacted on 0788 059 2370 / 0836 743 581 or The Rational Trust, c/o 21 Beaulieu Close, Swindon, SN5 8AQ

OPENCAST THE DOME

MSG Associates is the well known opencast mining 'company' which opencasted Michael Heseltine's garden in 1997, have been conducting exploratory test bores at a new site under the Millennium Dome in Greenwich. The alliance of environmentalists and deep pit mining groups claim it is the only site genuinely suitable for opencast mining in Britain due to the large DUST COVER which has already been erected over the site.

After speakers from the NUM and local tenant's groups (cuts of £40 million are being made by the local borough council despite the £750 million dome) engineers commenced digging for coal. A rich seam was located and several bags of the black gold were brought to the surface within a matter of minutes.

No Opencast: 0181 7673142

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Contact us at: EF!AU, c/o CRC,
16 Sholebrooke Avenue, Chapeltown, Leeds,
LS7 3HB. 0113 262 9365
<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>
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Artwork from the A-Spire cafe

A- SPIRE: AUTONOMOUS ZONE

On the 24th May the 'A-Spire: autonomous zone', squatted social centre for Leeds, was evicted after four weeks up and running. The centre had contained a cafe providing vegan and organic food on a donations basis, a radical/anarchist library and reading room, and a meditation room and workshops on bike maintenance and martial arts amongst other things. It had also been the scene of meetings, fundraising and general networking for political groups and campaigns such as Earth First!, the Hunt Sabs and anti-war and anti-fascist activity.

Originally the plan had been to resist the eviction and force the university who own the building into a full scale eviction. Barricades had been built including a platform fifty foot up in the spire and a direct action pledge signed by hundreds of local people. Unfortunately by the time the four weeks were up the collective were too exhausted to continue running the centre on a day to day basis, let alone launch themselves into an eviction.

Although the squat is now gone, A-Spire continues, courtesy of the web. Take a look: www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Parliament/3344

A pamphlet, describing and analysing issues arising from the centre and squat centres in general is being produced. For a copy, contact Leeds EF! or email: a-spire@geocities.com

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EF! ACTION UPDATE

Name: _____

Address: _____

From: EF! AU, c/o
Cornerstone Resource Ctr,
16 Sholebrooke Avenue,
Leeds, LS7 3HB, England

Subscriptions cost a minimum of £5 for 12 issues. Send more if you can afford it so we can give free subscriptions to prisoners, etc. Cheques payable to Earth First! Action Update. Remember security; false names and a collect or c/o address are advised.

NEW ROAD CAMP IN ESSEX

A new anti-road camp has been set up in Gorse Wood against the A170 bypass from Chelmsford towards Southend. The road, which is to be built by Laing construction, also seems to be part of a future grand plan for a London outer orbital road. It will pass through several fragments of bluebell woods and aquatic habitats and threaten the fragile ecosystems of others by its proximity.

Fifty people were involved in setting the camp up, and had erected two treehouses during the first week. There's plenty more big trees around to be defended before the expected date of work starting in August. To get to the camp go round the back of All Saints Church in Rettendon, and follow the path round until you come to the camp.

Camp Mobile: 07957 915 977

NEWS FROM THE PROTEST CAMPS

The Spinney camp on the proposed route of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road is still going, against the 'new M6' that's going to wend its way through the midlands countryside. Demolition work started on some houses on route but has not been resisted. 07931 161761

Arthur's Wood and Cedar Wood camps are part of the continued resistance to the second runway at Manchester Airport, protecting the woods which the airport wants to chop as it would interfere with their radar. They have succeeded in appealing the eviction order as far as the House of Lords, but need to raise £1000 in order to present their case.

There will be a mass trespass on June 13th along the route of the Avon Ring Road south of Bristol. The road will destroy part of the flagship Bristol and Bath cycleway as well as woods, etc. For the mass trespass, catch bus 48/49 from Bristol. Get off at Sainsburys, turn right and walk downhill. Bring costumes, banners, instruments

07970 999038 / 0836 653723

NUCLEAR WALK TO NATO HQ

More than 260 people from around the world were arrested during actions at NATO headquarters in Brussels. This was the final action of a 500 people peace march from the International Court of Justice in The Hague protesting about NATO's nuclear arsenal and the Balkan war. Despite water cannons being used on the crowd some protestors managed to penetrate police lines and retrieve information from 'the most secure building in Europe'. The same weekend Brussels saw its first Reclaim the Streets party and an action against Monsanto's offices with 200 members of the Inter-Continental Caravan. Contact For Mother Earth: +32 495 280259 international@motherearth.org



'Only when the last Camden market stall has sold the last crystal from the last RTZ mine, only then will we realise that we won't sort the world out by selling indigenous cultures'

If the circle is ticked then your subscription has run out - Please renew it NOW!